

REMARKS

1. General remarks

Applicant would like to thank Examiner for his response to arguments presented by Applicant in the previous Amendment, filed on July 13, 2007. Examiner's response helped Applicant better formulate his arguments supporting the patentability of Applicant's invention.

Applicant has rewritten the independent claim 1 to define the invention more particularly and distinctively so as to overcome the rejections and define the invention patentably over the prior art. Applicant also further developed his arguments. Revised claims and arguments clearly show that Applicant's invention (thereafter, "Kaptelinin") is patentable over US Patent application US2003/0135565 A1 to Estrada (thereafter, "Estrada").

2. Kaptelinin vs Estrada: A brief summary

Before presenting detailed arguments below Applicant would like to provide a brief and simple summary of the main differences between Kaptelinin and Estrada.

Kaptelinin	Estrada
Teaches a single-user system (provides support for project information management for a user of a computer system, Claim 1)	Teaches supporting activities or projects "between two or more individuals" (see Estrada, [0005])
The key subject matter can be simply described as follows (Note: there is only one user, user A): 1. User A selects one of his or her projects (e.g., project "P") as the currently active project.	The key relevant subject matter can be simply described as follows (Note: there are at least two users, User A and User B , see Estrada, Fig. 24-25): 1. User B (e.g., "Coleen") manually links an email message (e.g., "Vision statement") and attached file (e.g., "VisionStatement.doc") to a certain project (e.g., "XcorpPlan") by sending

<p>2. User A carries out a user-action with an information object (e.g., opens document "D")</p> <p>3. The system detects the information object (document "D") used by User A and automatically links it to the currently active project ("P") of User A.</p> <p>4. Document "D" becomes linked to project "P"</p>	<p>("Posting to") the message and the file to the project's address.</p> <p>2. The message, explicitly saying that it is related to project "Xcorp Plan", is distributed to all participants of the project. User A receives the message.</p> <p>3. The system, running on the computer of User A, automatically saves the file ("Vision statement.doc") in the "Files" subfolder of the appropriate project's folder ("Xcorp Plan").</p> <p>4. Attached document "Vision statement.doc") linked to "Xcorp Plan" by User B, also becomes linked to "Xcorp plan" in the digital workspace of User A.</p>
<p>The user does not have to manually link each information object to corresponding projects; the system does the linking.</p>	<p>User B has to manually link the information object ("Vision statement.doc") to an appropriate project ("Xcorp Plan"). The linking is automatically replicated in the workspace of User A. In general, each of the information objects linked to a project has to be manually assigned to the project by a user.</p>

3. Overcoming claim rejection – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-34 of the present invention were rejected by Examiner as being anticipated by Estrada (US Patent application US2003/0135565 A1). Applicant respectfully disagrees with that conclusion for the following reasons.

3.1. AS PER CLAIM 1.

3.1.1. Amended claim 1.

An amended Claim 1 of the present invention reads as follows:

Claim 1. A method providing low-overhead integrated support for project information management for a user of a computer system, comprising the method steps of:

creating a memory storage containing individual descriptions of each project listed in a group of projects, each individual description comprising one or more properties, said properties selected from a group consisting of at least: a name, deadline, color, icon, status, importance, and urgency; said memory storage also containing descriptions of information objects related to each project listed in said group of projects; said information objects selected from a group consisting of at least: computer files and folders, computer applications, electronic documents and their parts, web pages, computer network addresses, electronic messages, computer network transmissions, computer network connections, computer device descriptions, computer preferences and settings, user identities, user profiles and accounts, computer system-generated reports and collections, user interface components, virtual reality objects, electronic images, computer models, and personal information management system entries;

selecting, through a user-performed action, one project of said group of projects as an active project;

detecting, through a first detecting means, an event generated by one of at least one computer application and at least one operating system when a user-action is carried out with at least one information object, the user-action selected from a list consisting of at least: creating, deleting, activating, inactivating, selecting, deselecting, opening, closing, viewing, sending, downloading, uploading, accessing over network, sharing, archiving, printing out, playing, pausing, saving, copying, moving, modifying, or editing said at least one information object;

detecting, through a second detecting means, a project, which is active at the time when said event is generated;

detecting, through a third detecting means, whether at least one of the information objects described in said event is not contained in a list of information objects related to said active project:

and if said at least one information object described in said event is not contained in said list of information objects related to said active project, then adding a description of said at least one information object to said list of information objects related to said active project;

viewing lists of project-related information objects;

opening an information object from a list of project-related information objects; whereby an organization and accumulation of information objects related to individual projects of the user is accomplished in the computer system, thus enabling the user to directly access project-related information objects when work on a project is resumed after an intermission.

3.1.2. Claim 1 is NOT anticipated by Estrada's automatic linking of attached files to user projects

The past Office Action maintains:

Further, similar to applicant's invention, Estrada teaches at [0118] the step of automatically linking information object (i.e., "attached file") to user project (i.e. i.e. "Xcorp plan") by *monitoring user's mailbox and detecting the project active at the time of opening email* (i.e. detecting the "Post to" field of the email message). Estrada's Fig. 24-25, reproduced below, clearly shows the "Vision Statement.doc" (i.e. "information object") is automatically linked to the Xcorp plan project upon receiving of the email message. (p. 13, 11-17, italics added)

Applicant respectfully disagrees that Estrada's teaching is similar to applicant's invention. The following arguments clearly show that claim 1 is not anticipated by Estrada.

1. First, Kaptelinin's teaching of detecting events is different from Estrada's monitoring of user's mailbox. Kaptelinin teaches detecting events **generated when a user-action with an information object** is carried out (see claim 1), automatically link the information object to a project of the user -- the same user who performs the user-action. Estrada does not teach that.

True, Estrada teaches monitoring user's mailbox, that is, email messages received by the user. But it is apparent to those skilled in the art that *receiving an email (as taught by Estrada) is not a user-action*. It is not carried out by the user who receives the email. When an email is received and linked to a project, the receiver may be busy with his or her other projects and ignore received messages. Moreover, the user may be away from his or her email, or even be long dead. If a system is running, email messages will still be received and sorted out to appropriate folders: it does not require any user-action on the side of the receiver.

Sending an email can indeed be a user-action. But this is a user-action of the sender, not receiver. Therefore, Estrada teaches how user actions of one user (sender) cause changes in the workspace (a mailbox) of another user (receiver). For Kaptelinin, on the contrary, the user who performs a user-action and the user whose workspace changes as a result of that user-action, is one and the same person.

Therefore, Kaptelinin's detection of events generated by user-actions is substantially different from Estrada's monitoring of a user's mailbox.

(A side comment to this argument: Unamended claim 1 of applicant's invention lists "receiving" information objects as an example of a user-action. By implication, the reference is limited to cases when receiving an information object does require a user-action. For instance, receiving some electronic postcards requires going to a website and entering a code. Probably, this meaning is not directly obvious to all. To make sure that possible misunderstanding be avoided, Applicant has deleted "receiving" from examples of user-actions listed in claim 1.)

2. Second, "detecting the project active at the time of opening email " (Office Action, p. 13, lines 13-14) cannot be possibly done by monitoring user's mailbox and analyzing incoming emails.

According to Estrada [0118], attached file is automatically placed to a project folder *not* when the message is *opened* by the receiver, but "when a message relating to a project is *received* by a participant" (Estrada, [0118], italics added).

Detecting that the received email is linked (by the sender) to a certain collaborative project of the user (receiver) does not and cannot mean that *that* collaborative project in question is the active project of the user (receiver) at the time of receiving the email message. The receiver, as mentioned above, can work on other projects and ignore received emails for a while.

In addition, if switching to an active project were automatically determined by received emails, users would be unable to do their work.

3. Third, Kaptelinin saves users the effort of manually linking information objects to projects. The user selects one of his or her projects as the currently active one and then works as usual. Opened, saved, edited, etc., information objects are automatically linked to the currently active project, the user does not have to link them manually. Estrada cannot do that.

For Estrada, there must be at least one user in the collaboration space who manually links an information object to a project. The linking will be then propagated to other users' workspaces. If a user adds a file to his or her collaboration project folder, the same change will be made in other users' workspaces. If a user sends an email (and an attachment) to a project, the email and the attachment will be added to project folders of all participants in the project. This feature appears to be useful. But, still, for Estrada each of the information objects has to be manually assigned to a project by a user.

The above arguments indicate that Estrada's automatic linking of attached files to a user projects does not anticipate Kaptelinin (as suggested by the last Office Action). Estrada fails to teach linking information objects to projects of a user by detecting user-actions performed by the same very user. Estrada does not teach means for

detecting the currently active project of the user. And for Estrada, as opposed to Kaptelinin, each information objects has to be manually assigned to a project by at least one of collaborating participants.

For the above arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Estrada.

AS PER CLAIMS 2- 27. The claims incorporate all the subject matter of claim 1 and adds additional subject matter, which makes them novel and patentable over prior art.

ADDITIONALLY:

As per claim 2: As mentioned in 3.1.2 above, Estrada – as opposed to Kaptelinin -- fails to teach providing a user with a system that monitors events generated by user-actions of the user himself or herself. Rather, Estrada teaches a system that detects events generated by other users. Accordingly, Estrada's interaction histories of a user, mentioned in the Office Action – as opposed to Kaptelinin -- do not contain descriptions of events generated by the user himself or herself (such as opening or editing documents). Therefore, Kaptelinin's and Estrada's interaction histories are different, which means that claim 2 is not anticipated by Estrada.

As per claim 16: Estrada's Fig 2 shows a dialog box, not a document. As opposed to Kaptelinin's project description document (claim 16), it cannot be saved, edited, and kept separately from the system taught by Estrada.

As per claims 7 and 18: The labels shown by Estrada ("Latest version", etc) do not constitute a clear scale. It is not certain, for instance, "My thoughts" have a higher priority than "A few adjustments" (p. 16 of the last Office Action).

As per claim 18: Kaptelinin teaches restoring the original (before a project becomes inactive) state of the project. Kaptelinin makes sure the project space is the same as before a break. On the contrary, Estrada teaches auto-updating (0041, 0044), that is, making sure a project space is NOT the same as before a break, but rather updated with recently added resources.

Kaptelinin

Amendment B

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AS PER CLAIMS 28-34. The claims recite an apparatus for performing a similar method as discussed in claims 1-27, and their rejections are overcome with the same arguments.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore he submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action he respectfully solicits.

Conditional request for constructive assistance

Applicant has amended the claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel structure, which is also unobvious. If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to MPEP § 706.03(d) and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,



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